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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Your word, O God, tells us that we should do the works of justice and that we should love mercy. In the quiet of this prayer we admit our own willfulness can sometimes get in the way of Your loving spirit and our own self-centeredness can hinder generosity and forgiveness. We know that it is in the nature of things that we get so involved in our tasks and our eyes do not always look to the heavens for wisdom and vision and strength, but we pray this day that Your spirit will lift our spirits so that justice and mercy will roll down as waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

THE ISSUE IS SAFETY ON NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, the issue of nuclear waste is simply one of the safety. H.G. Wells once said that human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. Let me say that nothing in the history of mankind has withstood the test of time and the construction of 10,000 years.

What was state-of-the-art technology and engineered safe as late as 1970 has often been shown and proven to be an unsafe solution today. Americans should never allow short-term safety issues that are as serious as nuclear waste to become long-term problems hundreds of years from now.

I believe that standards based on sound science, along with the protection, the safety and the welfare of this Nation's citizens, should be the fundamental threshold when we address nuclear waste storage. H.R. 45, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999, will mandate upon the State of Nevada and this Nation the most environmentally egregious and deadly decree, a death sentence that preempts the National Environmental Policy Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and any other Federal, State, or local laws that may be inconsistent with this bill.

Vote "no" on H.R. 45.

INCENTIVES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, today we will be considering H.R. 391, the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments. This bill is strongly opposed by the administra-

tion, and four department heads will recommend a veto if the bill is passed in its current form.

The concern stems from a provision that bars agencies from assessing civil penalties for most first-time paperwork violations. This provision allows businesses one free violation, even when the violation is intentional. This sets up a bizarre circumstance where bad-faith actors would have little or no incentive to comply with paperwork requirements. They would know that once caught, they could not be fined.

When bad-faith actors do not file paperwork, it is extremely difficult for the government to detect illegal activity. The government would not be able to identify businesses that are putting workers, consumers, and seniors in jeopardy.

I will be offering an amendment that will provide penalty relief for first-time violators without giving an across-the-board waiver to those who intentionally violate the law. If my amendment is adopted, the veto threat will likely be dropped and the bill can become law. I urge Members' support for my amendment to H.R. 391.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, this Monday will mark the 179th anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, a prominent figure in our Nation's history whose influence has been as remarkable as any President of the United States. Susan B. Anthony's lifelong work to ensure equal rights for women and essentially equal rights for all mankind can never be forgotten nor understated.

However, some choose to ignore how her struggle to obtain equal rights also included the rights of the unborn. To

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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Susan B. Anthony, abortion could never be separated from her promotion of women's rights. She could not separate the two causes, because to those early feminists, abortion was nothing less than child murder. She said, "We want prevention, not punishment." For her, such prevention meant promoting dignity and true equality for the born and the unborn.

Every American, and especially every female, owes much to pioneers such as Susan B. Anthony. On this upcoming 179th anniversary of her birth, we should all pay tribute to this great American, to this great leader, to this wonderful right-to-life advocate, Susan B. Anthony.

BAN ILLEGAL TRADE RESTRICTIONS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the trade rep says, don't worry, Congress, we are going to GATT over steel. Wow.

Check this out. Three years ago Europe blocked American beef. Then Europe blocked American bananas. Uncle Sam went to GATT. GATT ruled in our favor. Europe laughed in their face. GATT says, go to the World Trade Organization. We went to the WTO. The WTO ruled in our favor. Europe laughed in their faces. Then they appealed. Three years later, Uncle Sam is being advised to go back to GATT on bananas and beef.

Beam me up. Rip Van Winkel is faster than GATT. America's sovereignty is not predicated on the WTO, Madam Speaker. When it comes to illegal trade, we should never manage it, we should ban it.

INDONESIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the continuing human rights abuses in Indonesia. This week I chaired a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing in which expert witnesses from Indonesia showed photographic evidence and reported on the situation facing their people.

Attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, particularly Chinese minorities, are continuing, and in some instances appear to be orchestrated. Ninety-five churches have been burned or destroyed since May of last year. One photograph showed a security officer standing by while a person's decapitated head was paraded around on a stick.

Violence and human rights abuses continue in regions. Rape victims from last year's riots are intimidated. Churches and mosques are burned.

Christians and Muslims from rural communities are afraid to return to their destroyed homes.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Indonesian government to immediately take steps to protect the fundamental human rights of all people in Indonesia, promptly bring to justice all individuals violating those rights.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we in the Congress have an historic opportunity to save the twin pillars of retirement security, Social Security and Medicare. We have this opportunity because of a strong economy in this country that has resulted in a Federal surplus for the first time in three decades. At this historic juncture, Democrats propose to do what is right: save Social Security and Medicare while we have the financial ability to do so.

Republicans, on the other hand, want to give a one-time tax break that flies in the face of fiscal responsibility. It is a shortsighted plan. It will not save Social Security and Medicare. It gives a 10 percent tax break to those, most of whom are wealthy in this country. The lion's share of the plan goes to people making more than \$300,000 a year. Middle-class families would get back less than \$100.

As one of their own said in today's Congress Daily, "A 10 percent cut means nothing for most taxpayers." Democrats are for tax cuts, tax cuts that are targeted to middle-class families. The Democratic plan will save Social Security and Medicare, and give tax relief to the people who need it most.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO PREVENT EXPANSION OF AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, we have troops in 144 countries of the world today. President Clinton has announced that he will now send troops to Kosovo. We are bombing in Iraq on a daily basis. We have been in Bosnia now for three years, although we were supposed to be there for six months. We should not go into Kosovo; we should not go there, absolutely, without congressional approval.

I have introduced legislation that will prevent the President from sending troops to further expand our intervention around the world without congressional approval. This is very, very important. We are spending so much money on intervention in so many

countries around the world at the same time our national defense is being diminished. Worst of all, the President is planning to put these thousands of troops under a British commander.

It is time we took it upon ourselves to exert our authority to restrain the President in spreading troops around the world.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO CONSUMERS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, my district includes Redmond, Washington, the home of Microsoft.

Madam Speaker, the true beneficiaries of the Internet explosion are consumers. They know it. A recent Wirthlin poll found that 81 percent of the public believes that Microsoft has benefited consumers. The reasons are clear. Microsoft is the leader and perhaps the most dynamic, creative, and productive industry in the history of the world. Technology is improving, prices are falling, and more people own a computer today than ever have before. The innovative people in Microsoft are a major reason for this.

The Federal Government should be cautious before it intervenes in this enterprising industry. The American people are reluctant to allow the government to control the industry because it provides cheaper, more useful products every day without government intervention.

We must not forget that the goal of our laws ought to be protecting the consumer, not the competition. If we focus on what is good for the consumer, the industry will continue to harness the genius of American innovation, and Microsoft will continue to serve as an engine of invention, to our mutual benefit.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY OFF-BUDGET

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, it is time we really take social security off-budget. While this Congress has worked hard to balance the budget under the manner we currently count Federal dollars, we have only done so by using the social security trust fund surplus.

Let us now raise the bar and balance the budget by walling off the social security surplus. Why should this Congress be content with a budget that is only balanced because we are borrowing from social security?

Everyone here knows it is morally wrong to use the social security surplus to mask our deficit, and our constituents know it, as well. Let us end